



Macalester College Archives, DeWitt Wallace Library  
*Oral History Project*

**Interview with:** **Jean Oliver**  
Class of 1946

**Date:** **Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007, 1:00p.m.**

**Place:** Macalester College DeWitt Wallace Library, Harmon Room  
**Interviewer:** Laura Zeccardi, Class of 2007

**Edited interview run time:** 40:42 minutes

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01:42	Girls play homecoming football, Air Force cadets on campus
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**Interview with Jean Oliver, Class of 1946**

**Laura Zeccardi, Interviewer**

**Monday, June 25, 2007  
Macalester College  
DeWitt Wallace Library  
Harmon Room**

LZ: My name is Laura Zeccardi and I am a new graduate of Macalester College conducting interview for the Macalester Oral History Project. Today is Monday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007, and I am interviewing Jean Oliver, Class of 1946, in the Harmon Room in the DeWitt Wallace Library. Well to start, if you just want to state your name and then where you are originally from, and then what year you came to Macalester.

JO: Well, I'm from Chisago City and I came down here to Macalester in 1942 because Ms. Doty was a friend of the family. And my aunt worked at the University of Minnesota and she thought it was too large a school to go from a small school, so I came to Mac. Do you want me to tell you where I lived? You know, when I first came I lived in Wallace Hall for a year.

LZ: Oh, yeah, definitely.

JO: And then we had Ruth Bonde who was in charge of the home economics, which you don't have anymore. And we had the Home Management House on Portland and Pierce—a great big house right on the corner. And there were, I think, ten of us that lived there for the whole year. And after that we moved over to Kirk Hall. Esther Suzuki was with us. Well, she was at

Wallace Hall and then she was there at um...the Home Management House, and then she was my roommate at Kirk Hall, also. And so we were there for a year, and then that was it, I guess, as far as where we lived. And I majored in Home Economics, which they don't have anymore. Then one thing, the Air Force was here. They took over Kirk Hall and when they left that's when we could move back in there. But we had homecoming football. They never not had a homecoming football team. So the Home Management House played another group, a sorority. And I played on the football team and got carried off the field and made the front page of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*.

LZ: [laughs] Why did you get carried off the field?

JO: Because I made a touchdown. And we had a big—they made the Air Force, there were 300 and some cadets here—they made them all come and sit in the bleachers. So we had a lot of people there. That's one thing we did. What else did we do? Uh...then every Friday and Saturday night we used to have dances at the (when the Air force was here) at, uh, over in the gym, you know, where they had the race track for running around upstairs. And that's where I met my husband. And he was a cadet here...

[02:42]

LZ: Did Macalester get chosen to house these cadets? Was that kind of typical at that time?

JO: I don't know how they were because they had the Navy at St. Thomas.

LZ: So it's typical that they would have been on campus.

JO: Yeah, right. And at the University of Minnesota, that's where the first George Bush took his... You see, they had to have two years of college. And so they really pushed them to...

LZ: So these cadets would have been students, too, at the same time?

JO: Right, right. That's all they did was went to class from morning 'til night. They couldn't... We'd just see them on the weekends. Then we had sororities here. You don't have sororities any more. I was a Thalian and I still have the pin. It cost a fortune at the time, like fifty dollars, my dad had a fit. I think we weren't that many students, we were close. Ms. Bonde wrote a book about all of us because we were such a variety of people that lived in this Home Management House. And they had—five of us cooked for half the year and then the others cleaned the house and did the laundry and everything and then vice-versed it. So she taught us really how to cook meals and all this. Not that I do that anymore, but we did.

[04:05]

LZ: Was that what a lot of your classes then that you took concerned, kind of cooking and things like that?

JO: Home economics, yeah, sewing, yeah. We made a lot of pretty dresses. She was good. So I don't know why they dropped that, as far as going to school, you know, because I would think that'd be, you know, as important as some of this other stuff that their doing now. And then I

majored, because I didn't have two years of—if you had home economics you had to have two years of chemistry. And I had a year of, probably which I wouldn't stand, Spanish. So I would have had to take two years. So I dropped that as my major and took sociology.

LZ: So you didn't...?

JO: No. I had a minor in English and a minor in Home Ec, major in sociology. Didn't do anything with that. Went and worked at West Publishing for 43 years. So...

[05:05]

LZ: Do you know what was the reasoning for having chemistry as part of the Home Ec? Was it just general chem?

JO: I don't know. It was just one of the requirements. It's just like we had to go to church, religion, every week. And then the other time we just had, what did they call it? Religion on Tuesdays, and then we had, everybody had to go there, on Thursday. Tuesdays and Thursdays for an hour. And they had the Chapel up on top of Old Main, if you want to go to church. That's where they had all the plays and everything, too. Old Main's still here. Didn't tear that down, fortunately. Well, coming from a small town, I think coming to Macalester was... And my aunt lived right over on Laurel where I live now, 1765, so I used to walk over. And then I went to summer school two summers. And they don't do that anymore, do they?

LZ: Unh-uh.

JO: I can't understand that, because that was a good deal. But, oh, I had a teacher, an English teacher. We had to read *Anna Karenina*, Tolstoy's *War and Peace*, and all, you know. Summer School was six weeks, so you couldn't do all that. That was just ridiculous. But I skimmed to get through.

LZ: Was summer school required at that time or was it an option?

JO: No, no. It was optional. So, otherwise I don't know anything.

[06:36]

LZ: What were some of...maybe elaborate on some more kind of campus-wide events, or things that really stick out. Or people I guess you've talked... You might want to talk a little bit about Esther since you just...

JO: Oh, well Esther came here when she was only sixteen, graduated from... And they allowed only five Japanese-American students on campus. And there were just...Ella? Elle Goings I think was her name. There were just a couple of black people on campus, and they were, there couldn't have [been] more than two or three, whatever. I mean it was ridiculous. But Esther and I just hit it off. And she was just... Oh, it was terrible. Whenever we went to a restaurant, you know, people would come up and say, "Are you Chinese?" Just as if, well, if you're Japanese.... So my dad was about 6'3" and he worked in downtown St. Paul, so he'd take us out and he always walked first so we followed him. Nobody dared say anything.

[07:35]

Let me see, I don't know. I worked on the school paper, worked on the Annual. I don't know if they ever have an annual here from that year or not but, it was... What else did we do? A lot of dances, like I said. We had a lot of parties. Dances...

LZ: Were those usually on campus?

JO: On campus, right, at the Field House.

LZ: Oh, ok.

JO: And we had bands. We had big name bands, so called, that would come into town and would play one night. And...I don't know, Macalester always was able to pull people here. Hubert Humphrey was one of the teachers. I had him for Minnesota History.

[08:20]

LZ: Really? What was he like as a teacher?

JO: Big head. He was, he... When he started talking, you would say, "This is a red...a red thing." By the time he got through you would agree that it was brown and everything. He could twist you around. I've never seen anything like it in my life. And Mondale, whatever his name is. But Pete Mondale was a year behind me in school, his brother. And he never thought he was too swift, and all of a sudden he's a professor out in Washington D.C. and married and had nine



kids I think it was. His Dad was a Presbyterian minister and I think he married a Catholic girl and they had all these kids. I used to talk to him when we called up for raising funds, you know, for the yearly fund drive. So otherwise, I kind of think of... I still keep in touch with quite a few of the people that I...we were a pretty close group.

[09:33]

LZ: Are there any professors, or I think Dean Doty would've been there, that time was she around?

JO: Yeah, that's why I came here.

LZ: Oh! That's right, that's right! You had said that. What was she kind of like as...?

JO: Well, she was sort of prim and proper like my aunt was. I mean, they made a good pair. I think they went to the same church. And, yeah, Miss Doty was always... Well there were times... She always told us... Well, she had these crazy teas and stuff like that we all sat at. Get all dressed up for that. But I never had any trouble with her. But oh, they used to... We had a—they were having so much trouble when the Air Corps were here because a lot of the fellows were married and they dated the girls on campus. And so Miss Doty—I was one of them, there were two of us—that had to go through and find out which were the married guys, believe it or not. I have a list of them! So if they wanted to date somebody they could go and see the list, if they were married or not. That was one thing we did.

[10:38]

LZ: How did you get put in charge of that?

JO: I don't know. She picked me for some reason. I said she'd been a friend of the family's, so... But I don't know. Then I think she had a nephew that went here when I was here, too—Miss Doty [did]. And then, you know, they always say about—they went through... When we always wore slacks, blue jeans, and saddle shoes. And then all of a sudden they went through a period here where everybody had to get dressed up all the time. No, they were dressed up but we didn't. We were very casual, sweatshirts and...

[11:20]

There was a Dr. Strong here, and he was from... We found out afterwards he was Jewish and had to get out of Austria or something. And he came here and he was a sociology professor. We used to go down in the basement of Old Main for coffee, you know, after class. And we'd keep on talking and talking and talking and all of a sudden they let him go and then he was someplace else. And then he went up to Canada and committed suicide. We never did find out really what all that was about. I thought it would have been interesting to know. He was very different and had a terrible accent to try to understand, but... We had a lot of good—Dr. Wallace was, uh, Walters, was... I would tell nobody ever take biology unless you're gonna be a doctor or a nurse. Who cares what the left hind leg of a grasshopper was? You know, you have to go through all these and look through the microscope and I think it was a feldsfly [unclear] or something. And I thought isn't that the dumbest thing ever. I didn't do well. I got D's. But at least he didn't flunk me. But there was so much memory work in that. But in the *Mac Weekly* that comes out every once in a while someone will always talk about Dr. Walters, what a

wonderful... And he was another one. He was a friend of my aunt's. And my aunt thought he was just—he was, he was wonderful. But that wasn't my cup of tea as far as doing that.

Between that and Spanish. And then we had kids that had had two or three years of Spanish in high school, said they didn't know anything about Spanish, so they'd go into class. Well, they got A's! Who wouldn't? And that was one thing that I would get on my high horse about. I thought it should be investigated because it just wasn't fair to the rest of us who'd never had Spanish. So I didn't do well in that either. If I liked a course I got an A, if I didn't I'd get a C or a D. That's the way I was. No Honors here with my scholastic ability [laughs].

[13:36]

LZ: Were their requirements that you had to fulfill in order to graduate? I guess, was biology a requirement then?

JO: I don't...well you had to have a science.

LZ: Oh, ok.

JO: And why I didn't take—because I'm a rock hound. I've always picked up rocks. Why I didn't do that I'll never know. That would have been much more interesting to me, because I've got rocks, bowls of rocks. And I work down at the Science Museum now, every other Saturday, in the Collections Corner—where people trade, like a trading post. You bring something and the more you know about it the more points you get. Then you can trade for something we have. So I've been doing that for years. And then for nine years I read for the blind. Twice a week, I'd

get up at 4:30 in the morning and go down to Services for the Blind on University Avenue. And we had to code the paper, whether it was local, state, national, world news, and the obituaries had a different number and everything. I did that for nine years, worked my butt off and guess what? The funding stopped. So they closed the whole thing. So now all they get is a little bit from what's in the paper. I think it's on computer, but they don't get the obituaries. They don't get the horoscopes like we read. We read everything, except the ads and stuff like that. But I did that for nine years. And I felt so sorry for the woman that was in charge of that because she was blind. She had a master's degree, was diabetic and went blind. Then she was out of a job, period, and she still hasn't had a, found a job. But the state dropped that funding. It was terrible. But outside of that I do a lot of volunteer work. Always have, I guess.

[15:22]

LZ: Did you have a part time job when you were a student at Macalester?

JO: No. It didn't cost much to go here then.

LZ: Do you remember what the cost was?

JO: I think it was like \$500 for room and board and tuition.

LZ: How large was your class, too?

JO: Our classes? I suppose they were 20, 25. I don't think there were any more than that ever. And, uh, I know some of the people worked in the kitchen. And... But there weren't that many people that ever worked, that I knew of.

[16:01]

LZ: About how many women would've, like students, and I guess even faculty... Did you find that there was kind of a shortage of women faculty during that time?

JO: Well, Ruth Bonde is one that I can remember. And Miss May, who was in English, a little old lady. Real sweet, persnickety. Uh, Ward Johnson, I think, was the other [English faculty], the male one. But Miss May was really something else. She'd come from a lot of money and I think they lost it in the crash or in the 20s. But she was a, she was a sweetheart. Well we had quite a few women faculty members, but mostly men I would say.

[16:47]

LZ: You talked about the newspaper and the yearbook. Were there other things, oh, and I guess the sorority. Were there other—there seemed to be a lot more clubs back then, then there are now.

JO: Yes, there were.

LZ: What were, I guess, some of those?

JO: I don't know. Like I said, we had all the different sororities and fraternities and, I can't... But then, uh, working on the annual was a pain because we had to identify everybody. And then we had all kinds of pictures of the fellows that were in the Air Force there, because that's when they were here, so they had pictures of them. We had to identify everybody in our school picture, and it was a big one. There were a lot of people there, and you had to identify all those. And we really worked hard on that annual. And I think that's why, what's his name, Berg or something, got fired but then they rehired him back again because it cost so much. We were way over budget [laughs]. It was a good annual, I think one of the best I've ever seen. But, uh, that was, that was crazy.

[18:00]

LZ: Did you find that you knew most students, being that is was very small?

JO: I think you pretty much knew most of the students. I really, you know... Except now I see in the paper somebody died that went to Macalester and he's maybe eighty-some years old. Well, I'd never heard of him. But then he may have come back after the war and gone to school. And then, Gordon and I, when he got out of the service, he thought he was gonna come back to Macalester, so we moved into Macville, we got in there. And because they had so many ex-Macalester students coming back, they wouldn't take him. So we had to move out. And then we went—he ended up going to Hamline. But that was another crazy thing, too.

[18:47]

LZ: So you graduated in '46. What year would he have been eligible to be back at Macalester, and then was rejected? That was the same time?

JO: Right, '46.

LZ: So you were still a student and then...

JO: So, anyway, that was...that was funny because they did have so many ex-students that came back that they just couldn't—even though he'd gone maybe two years...classes. So...

[19:21]

LZ: What was the atmosphere like on campus with World War II going on, and kind of friends being gone, and... Did you feel that you knew quite a few people who were serving when you were at Mac?

JO: No... Well, see, I had fellows that I had gone to high school with. We were only twenty in my class. I think one was killed in service. I think there were three others that went. But I didn't have much to do with them when I was in high school, so I... No boyfriends or anything like that.

[20:00]

LZ: Now Charles Turck would have been president, is that correct? I guess, what was he kind of like as a president?

JO: I think he was great. In fact I still have an invitation at home. He was going to take me out for lunch one day and we never did get around. And I can't even remember what it was all about. Why I got picked but I've got it at home—a little invitation to have lunch with him. He was nice, very pompous I would say. You know, not like the one we have now, who is very, very nice I think. But yeah, Dr. Turck, and then he went in the service. That was the end of that.

[20:44]

LZ: Was he pretty visible on campus, or accessible to students?

JO: Oh, yes. Yes he was. Just like Hubert. Hubert was all over. If he got two people together he would have a big conversation, you know. He was a big talker. And that's why I think that so many of them, you know...Latimer now is here, but... They all got the idea that everybody at Macalester is a Democrat. They still think so. And I wasn't. I never was, never have been. I think every... you know, it was a pretty liberal school you know, really... Oh, another thing we did was we fought like crazy to be able to smoke in the dormitories, and we got it.

[21:32]

LZ: Really...

JO: We sure did! We could smoke, and then at the Kirk Hall we could smoke in the room. They always called it the Blue Room because Esther and Eleanor and I, we all smoked. And so when you came into our room, it was the Blue Room. So anyway, and we used to go over to the



Mac Drug on the corner which is now the Breadsmith or something over on the corner. Yeah, Mac Drug. Got cigarettes, two packs for a quarter. Now they're four dollars or something. Glad I quit. Couldn't afford that.

[22:05]

LZ: How have you, given that you've stayed in the neighborhood, how have you seen the surrounding neighborhood change around Macalester?

JO: Well I didn't. When Gordon and I were married, I lived down in the ghetto area. Right off of Dale, and we had a real nice apartment down there. And now it's all Hmong. They're either Hmong or Somalian, and that's changed. But where I am, I mean... The people that I live next to—I live in my grandparent's house—well it was Mike's grandparents' house, Mike's the cop. And his grandparents bought the house. And Judy that lives on the other side, lived there 35 years. And it's pretty much stable where I am. It's a stable neighborhood. And I think in the Midway area is pretty much... You come there, you live there, and you stay there, you know. There's not much moving around.

[23:10]

LZ: Did you find that when you were a student you spent most of your time on campus or in the neighborhood versus Minneapolis or...

JO: I never went to Minneapolis. Never, you would never, never. One thing we used to do when we had homecoming games, we had the street car. We would all be on the streetcars and

they'd have the band and we'd go all over. And then living at Kirk Hall, I think then we got the buses. I didn't think I'd ever be able to sleep because we were right on the, over the, you know, right on Snelling Avenue. And the buses would stop and start up and all this noise and everything. You finally get used to it. But Kirk Hall was, that was... See, Wallace Hall was all girls. There were no men allowed. And at Kirk Hall, we all ate together. So one unit would be all girls, and then the next unit would be boys. And they'd have to lock the doors between all the time. Another thing that was funny about... And then we had to be in by eleven o'clock. The doors were locked. And my aunt, the one who knew Ms. Doty, took me to something at the University of Minnesota where all the famous people would come to play piano or opera singers and stuff like that. And I'd never get home by eleven o'clock. And so we had to have special permits so that we could ring the bell and they'd come and let you in. But if you got locked out... But then they started sneaking in windows and, I don't know. I never did that, though. But, I don't know, I think morals were a lot better then they have been lately. People now live together, and then they get married, maybe. And there...you wouldn't think of doing anything like that. That would be one thing. And of course I'm sure we had some promiscuous girls on campus, too, but few and far between, believe me. They were pretty...

[25:28]

LZ: Did most people live—since there seems to be a lot more people that were from the Twin Cities area—were there a lot of people who lived off campus? Like with their parents or...

JO: Yeah. Betty Conger was one of them. She lived right down the street. And Phyllis, Jefferson I think was her name. Yeah, there were a lot of them that lived, you know, close. Most of them went to Central High School. And uh...

[26:00]

LZ: Did you go, um, back home during the summers when you lived...or did you stay at Mac?

JO: No, I went to summer school.

LZ: Oh that's right.

JO: And I stayed where I'm living now, and then walked to school. That's about eight blocks, nine blocks. Nope, stayed through summer school, and then had a couple of weeks off. But, um... We...of course nothing was air-conditioned either, you know. Oh my goodness! And some of these days when we were in class it was just ridiculous to sit there and sweat. But, uh...

[26:41]

LZ: Where were most of your classes? Were they in Old Main?

JO: I think a lot of them in Old Main.

LZ: Ok.

[26:51]

LZ: How does the physical layout of the campus kind of compare to when you were there? I imagine there were—

JO: Well they've torn down some buildings that weren't that old. You know, where they made that Ruth Stricker...

LZ: Oh, the Campus Center.

JO: Yeah, that. That building wasn't that old. I went there when they, right before they were gonna—in fact, I was with Esther when they tore it down. Or right before. They had a big party before they tore it down. And the gym over there is...I don't know. I should go by there and see how they're doing. They keep building it up. But, uh, otherwise... And then of course we had Old Main, and then they built this. And, I mean, I don't know, then they put the Chapel up. That wasn't ever there before, but it's been there a long time now. And then where I'm in, the alumni place there, the office. And then they had that—I think they still have it, on Summit Avenue. They called it the Alumni House. 'Cause we used to have luncheons there. Don't they have that right on the corner of Summit? It's a brick building?

LZ: Yeah, um-hm, yeah, definitely.

JO: And then all we had was Kirk Hall and Wallace Hall. Those were the only campuses. I mean campuses...only dormitories. Just the two of them, all the time I was here. So that's why

they had the special fraternity houses or sorority houses like we had. And then the Home Management house. Um, yeah, there have been a lot of changes since I went there. Because it was a small school. And we didn't have anybody that came from Timbuktu, like now people are from... Somebody had the other day, when she was working in the office over there, and I thought "I never even knew people came over here from there," and I can't even remember what it was. But I've got a list of all the people, exchange students. I think they're from 74 foreign countries and something like that.

LZ: I think so, yeah, quite a wide range...

[28:54]

JO: Yeah, because some of the kids, uh... This one kid who's from, I don't know whether you know him or not. Now what was his name? Dimitri? That came from, his folks lived in [unclear]. In fact, he was so excited one day because he came in and told me that he was in the same dorm room as his mother was in Wallace Hall. His mother graduated from here. What, he's half black, or something. I don't know. But he lives in Kenya. And then, and they have a home in London. And when he came here last fall, he had appendicitis and ended up in, they had to stop the airplane, something with a ruptured appendix. And then when he came here they put him in the hospital again, and he had an awful time. But he's got cousins; my Norwegian cousins, so they're from Norway. And I think he has a sister going here, too. And I can't remember what Dimitri's last name is. But he is so cute and he's so nice. He just is personality plus. Just bubbles. So I thought that was pretty interesting that his mother went here, and I think his grandmother went here, too. But they do have kids, kids from Spain and they always help

out in the office [Alumni Office] there. I wouldn't want to... There's a girl that lives—in fact it's two o'clock, she's gonna go home to France. And she'd been over here for a year as a teacher in the French immersion school. And if you talk to her you'd think she was from Minnesota. She has no accent whatsoever. And I said, "Well, did you go to—" 'cuz some of these kids that come here go—"to this English International School?", or whatever they call it. So there's no accent really. And that's the way she was. And she said no, but she came over when she was in seventh grade for a year to go to school. And now she'd been over here for a year. But you would never in a million years know that she was from France. Ever, ever. So I said, "Somebody's doing something alright." You know, I was in China, and they start in Kindergarten learning English. So all these little kids like that. But some of the older ones, you know, you try to find out where to go... Oh, it was funny trying to find out where to go and they knew nothing. And they'd talk with their hands and if you tied their hands they wouldn't be able to speak, I don't think. So anything else you want to know?

[31:29]

LZ: Did you find that even though there weren't a lot of international students here at Mac, that the student body was still fairly concerned with, kind of, international issues or at least kind of nationwide issues?

JO: No, I don't think anybody even thought about it.

LZ: Okay.

JO: I really don't. Might because of the war. But we didn't know everything that was going on. I think you, you're pretty secluded here. And I don't think we ever read papers. Nobody had TV. TV was a nonexistent thing. Listened to the radio, maybe. Listened to sports on the radio. But, uh, I had, one of my best girlfriends was from California because her aunt had heard this was a good school, so she sent her here. So we've had kids that came from... And, uh Charlotte Rainey that just died, she was from Oklahoma. So we had, you know, people from...but nobody from a foreign country at all that I ever heard of.

[32:31]

LZ: Have you been able to stay in pretty close contact with Macalester, given that you've stayed in the area?

JO: I've been working here all the time.

LZ: Oh okay! So what work have you done then? You've been in the Alumni Office, right?

JO: Yeah, right. But then we used to have blood drives. And I was—Esther got me into that. And we used to come and serve people, but you don't do that anymore either. And then we called up wanting money from—you'd call your own classmates.

LZ: Oh, ok.

[33:00]

JO: And we'd sit over there. Where were we? One of the offices over there. And we'd serve when they got through giving blood, giving cookies and seeing that they were all right and all that. Did that for about four years. Esther got me going on that. So I've been around the campus a lot. Just didn't, uh...

[33:29]

LZ: Has most of your work in the Alumni Office been fundraising type efforts?

JO: No, no. I'm purging the files.

LZ: Oh, okay.

JO: That's what I'm doing. And they've got students that don't, you know. I had, oh let me see, what cities that they merged together? But they could be one state and one another. MI, Michigan and Minnesota. Something like that and they have a lot of foreign students that do a lot of this, and it's just... Grand Rapids, Michigan and Grand Rapids, Minnesota and they were all merged together. So that's what I'm doing, sorting all that stuff out. Pretty much got it under control. And I work for Janice [Dickinson, Alumni Office], too. I think all those—were you here at graduation?

LZ: Yeah.

JO: Those nametag things? I did thousands of them.



LZ: Oh, did you do all those?

JO: Yeah. Stick the little rubber things in and wrap ‘em up and put ‘em in. And Janice said, “Well you do it better than anybody else”. ‘Cuz boy, some of those, you know they get ‘em in there and they didn’t wrap them around their finger or put them in and hold them so that the stuff didn’t jump out. So I’ve done, oh, for the last couple years I’ve been doing that. So, uh, yeah, I’ve been here on campus a lot.

[34:50]

LZ: Have you gone to a lot of the reunions that they’ve had for the various classes?

JO: I haven’t missed one.

LZ: Ok. What are those like for you, to come back...

JO: Well, it’s funny because, now, there were quite a few you know, people from my class even that live around here that don’t come. That’s what I can’t understand. And I think uh, for our, what is it? The 60<sup>th</sup> one? That one, my first roommate that I had, um, and she comes all the time and she only went here a year. And then she transferred to the U [of Minnesota]. And I think there were only six of us last time, that came in. And I can’t understand that because there’s so many that live around here. “Oh, who wants to go to that? I mean, that’s no fun.” I can’t believe that because we have a ball. We do. No, I don’t think I’ve missed any.

[35:44]

LZ: Do you remember Mac in the '60s and the '70s, when there was so much, kind of, unrest—

JO: Tension on the—

LZ: —about Vietnam and... What was that like for you having been here in the '40s when it was more kind of...

JO: I don't know. I just thought they were a radical group of people. That didn't bother me particularly. But it just, uh... I, I don't know. Then they had all the sit-ins and everything. And now they got the gay whatever, the Gay Coalition or something, whatever it is. Well nobody ever thought of that when we were going to school, you know? It's more, I think it's more liberal than it ever was. I may be mistaken, but it was pretty liberal then, I guess. Well, we couldn't believe that Hubert [Humphrey] ran for Mayor of Minneapolis and got elected. That shocked us. And uh... Then Fritz Mondale, Joan, her father was a professor here. [Sigh] I don't know. It's been interesting. I've always been close... Now, my sister went to Mac for a year and got kicked out. Valedictorian of her class, and came down here and just had a ball. And so she got kicked out. So she never mentions that she went to Macalester. And then she goes up to Saint Cloud and she graduates with honors. And she was one of the outstanding teachers here in Saint Paul until she got Guillain-Barre. So that she's still tippy on her legs. I don't know... No, I don't think she—I bet that ninety percent of the people she knows don't

know that she ever went to Mac. But she did, for a year. Got kicked out. She wouldn't tell anybody that.

[37:52]

LZ: Do you feel like Mac is still a school, when you come back, that you can kind of relate to it, that things do seem familiar for you?

JO: Oh, I think so. I said they've got a lot of... Well, the students that come from—like this one girl I worked with came from Madrid. She speaks like you and I do. You wouldn't know that she—and she went to international school or whatever she called it. There's so many, they're just great. You know? And I think it's great that they can come over here and go to school. But when you think that we had maybe, we had five Japanese on campus and maybe four blacks. And now you'd think you were in Somalia or some place. But that's good. I think that gives you a broader, you know, relationship with other people that we just never had. Well, I remember that when Esther, when she came home with me for Thanksgiving or something. And we went to church at home. And two people got up and left because she was Japanese. Now can you imagine anybody being that absolutely stupid? So she went through a lot. She uh... But I don't think she ever knew it. I mean, mother told me that I didn't know it. But, it was a friend of hers, whose brother left—got up and left. But Esther and I were very... I told you that she named Nami Jean after me, so... And uh, I kept in touch with Esther all the time. And Suzi—George—we always called him Suzi, too. So anyway... But, uh, it's been interesting. It was interesting then, I'm sure it's interesting now. And I don't feel as old as I am, but that's alright, too [laughs]. I keep busy. I exercise at the Y three times a week. I used to go

at the Sweatshop with Gayle Winegar, and now she's on the Board here. And for 19 years...

And I've got a dog that I have to keep walking all the time. In fact, I walked her up here a couple times. So, and three cats. And an aquarium.

LZ: You are busy.

JO: Yes! I can't go anyplace! Somebody's has to take care of the fish, or the cats. Anyway...

LZ: Well those are my questions, but if you have other kind of stories...

JO: No, I don't. I can't think of anything. You can turn it off now.

[End of Interview 40:42]